

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of : Customer Number: 31824  
Kiminobu HIRATA, et al. : Confirmation Number: 4387  
Application No.: 10/576,720 : Group Art Unit: 3748  
Filed: December 13, 2006 : Examiner: Binh Q. Tran  
For: ENGINE CONTROL APPARATUS :  
AND ENGINE OPERATING :  
METHOD :  
:

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Sir:

This paper is in response to the final Office Action dated July 10, 2008, the period for reply having been extended by one month from October 10, 2008, to November 10, 2008.

The claims are reflected in the **Listing of Claims** which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 8 of this paper.